



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montana Triggers Tier Two Emergency Unemployment Benefits

Montana's unemployed workers may be eligible for a second tier of emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) beginning February 15, 2009. Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly says, "These additional benefits will help those Montanans who are having an increasingly hard time finding employment, and at the same time provide an economic stimulus to our Main Street businesses."

Montana is one of 33 states whose increasing unemployment rates have triggered an additional level of federal EUC benefits. The provisions of the Tier Two benefits allow up to 13 more weeks of benefits for individuals who have exhausted their EUC claim and are not eligible to begin a new unemployment insurance claim.

Tier Two benefits are available for individuals who exhaust regular and EUC benefits prior to April 5, 2009. Compensation provided under the federal legislation will expire completely on August 29, 2009. Because the extension is federally funded, there is no charge to employers' accounts.

"Providing additional benefit payments to Montana workers who need them the most is critical at this time", said Roy Mulvaney, Unemployment Insurance Administrator. "These monies are spent immediately right in our local communities, helping to stabilize local businesses and the economy."

Claimants who may be eligible for Tier Two benefits will be notified by mail. Claimants who have exhausted their current EUC claim and not eligible to begin a new unemployment insurance claim should reactivate their EUC claim by logging on to www.UI4U.mt.gov, or they may contact the Unemployment Insurance Claims Processing Center at (406) 444-2545 (Helena) or (406) 247-1000 (Billings). The Claims Processing Center will be closed Monday, February 16, 2009, in observance of President's Day.

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